

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) W

----- 004862

R 120943Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7656

INFO SECDEF

CIA

CINCPAC

DEPCHIEF UDORN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 1138

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MAPS, LA

SUBJECT: FUNDING OF FAR SALARIES

REF:

A. DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI LTR DCH-VC DTD 8 JAN 74

B. CINCPAC J8322 LTRSER 0063 DTD 23 JAN 74 (NOTAL)

C. SECDEF ASD; 1SA(SA/DSAA) 2299/111923Z FEB 74

SUMMARY. REF A REQUESTED EXCEPTION OF POLICY UNDER MAP TO FUND SALARIES FOR 10,000 FAR SOLDIERS IN EXCESS OF THE 51,000 THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT IN FY 75, REF B FORWARDED REQUEST FROM DEPCHIEF AS AN EXCEPTION TO POLICY. PARA 3, REF C STATES THAT REQUEST CANNOT BE APPROVED PER SECTION 503(A) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AS AMENDED.

2. THIS MISSION HAS REPEATEDLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL CONCERNED THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY NECESSITY OF SRETAINING A FORCE STRUCTURE OF 60,000 BY 1 JULY 1974, REDUCING TO 50,000 BY 1 JULY 1975. THE RLGAFF IS AT THE PRESENT TIME DEMOBILIZING 18,000 SOLDIERS BETWEEN 1 JANUARY 1974 AND 1 JULY 1974. THIS IS BEING DOEN AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE USG TO ACHIEVE A MORE REALISTIC FORCE LEVEL FOR CON-  
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DITIONS EXTANT AFTER A YEAR OF EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE.

SURROUNDING THE PROBLEM OF FORCE REDUCTION ARE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A. THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE VETERANS PROGRAM FOR DEMOBILIZED

SOLDIERS.

B. THERE MUST BE AN EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF THE FAR/FAN AND EX-LIF FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN MR II AND MR III.

C. THE RLG BUDGET CAN PROVIDE PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR ONLY APPROXIMATELY 51,000 TROOPS. THIS AMOUNTS TO EXPENDITURES OF APPROXIMATELY 17.0 MILLION DOLLARS OUT OF TOTAL RLG REVENUES OF 21.0 MILLION DOLLARS.

2. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE, AND WITH PRIOR WASHINGTON APPROVAL, WE HAVE ASSURED THE RLG THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT A FORCE STRUCTURE OF 60,000 AT THE END OF FY 74, DECREASING DURING THE YEAR TO 50,000 AT THE START OF FY 75, AT WHICH TIME THE RLG WILL ABSORB THE TOTAL COST OF PAY AND ALLOWANCE FOR THIS FORCE. OUR PROPOSAL TO FUND THE SALARIES OF THE ADDITIONAL 10,000 TROUPS WAS CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO THE RLG AS A ONE TIME EXCEPTION THAT WOULD NOT BE CONTINUED BEYOND FY 75. FURTHER, WE WOULD ONLY SUPPORT THE 60,000-50,000 LEVEL IF THE COMBAT UNITS WERE FILLED AND APPRECIABLE REDUCTIONS WERE MADE IN THE SUPPORT STRUCTURE. RLGAF PLANS DO, IN FACT, REFLECT THESE CONDITIONS.

3. IF WE ARE TO NOW INFORM THE RLG THAT WE CANNOT FUND THE SALARIES OF THE 10,000, WE ENVISAGE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY CONDITIONS THAT WILL PROBABLY HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT MORE FAR-RANGING THAN ANYTHING SHORT OF THE RESUMPTION OF ALL-OUT HOSTILITIES BY THE NVA UNITS IN LAOS. AT THE TIME WHEN A COALITION GOVERNMENT IS VERY CLOSE TO BEING FORMED AND PEACE ATTAINED IN LAOS, THE EFFECT OF SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE DISASTROUS TO THE RLG AND TO U.S. POLICIES IN LAOS.

4. I AM APPALLED AT THE APPARENT LACK OF COMPREHENSION OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM POSED BY PARA 3 OF REF C AND BY THE FACT IT DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS STATE 027961 WHICH WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WHICH ENJOINS US TO MAINTAIN SECRET

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AS STRONG A NON-COMMUNIST MILITARY POSTURE AS POSSIBLE AND TO GIVE SOUVANNA AND FAR EFFECTIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE DURING THE PRESENT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. IF, IN FACT, WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO PROVIDE THESE SALARIES THROUGH MAP IN FY 75, I RECOMMEND THAT THE PROBLEM BE ADDRESSED SOONEST AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON AS OUR POSITION HERE AND STABILITY IN LAOS WILL BE GRAVELY IMPERILLED. WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER INSTRUCTIONS S/S-O, MR. KURZE.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 27 JUL 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY EXERCISES, FINANCIAL DATA, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, US, LA  
**To:** STATE INFO SECDEF  
CIA  
CINCPAC  
DEPCHIEF UDORN  
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